



Attachment #1 Need and Purpose

Need and Purpose
Project STP-9252(6), Fulton County
PI No. 751300
Johnson Ferry Road From The Chattahoochee River to Abernathy Road

Background

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) adopted the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the 13-county Atlanta Metropolitan area in April 2000. The Plan addresses travel needs through the year 2025. The RTP is the direct result of a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous planning process conducted by ARC, local governments and the Georgia Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/RTP recommends roadway improvements along Johnson Ferry Road from the Chattahoochee River to Abernathy Road. While this corridor is not shown on a designated state bike route, Fulton County has committed to update their and ARC's Bike Route Plan.

Proposed Improvement

The project proposes construction of one turn lane in each direction on Johnson Ferry Road from the Chattahoochee River to Riverside Drive, and roadway improvements for the entire length of the project. The proposed design would include turning lanes as needed. The total length of the project will be approximately 1.24 miles.

The existing roadway on Johnson Ferry Road consists of four 12' travel lanes with sub-standard urban shoulders with intermittent sidewalks. The beginning of the project at the Chattahoochee River, with the additional lane extending to the immediate west of the bridge to Columns Drive for lane continuity with the existing Johnson Ferry Road in Cobb County, to the end of the project at Abernathy Road, Johnson Ferry Road will be widened to six 12' lanes (including bridge) to Riverside Drive. Johnson Ferry Road drops down to four 11' lanes from Riverside to Abernathy Road, with a 16' raised grassed center median and with 4' bike lanes, 16' urban shoulders and 8' sidewalks on both sides.

Major structures on the proposed project include the Johnson Ferry Road bridge over the Chattahoochee River and possible retaining walls on Johnson Ferry Road. The 65' wide bridge over the Chattahoochee River will be widened to the east to accommodate six 12' travel lanes, a 16' raised median, 4' bike lanes and 10' sidewalks. The retaining wall may begin southeast of the Riverside Drive intersection on Johnson Ferry Road on the southwest side to underneath the north side of the existing bridge over the Chattahoochee River.

Projects in the area in the 6 years Construction Work Program

- STP-9250(1), PI # 751310, Abernathy Road from Johnson Ferry Road to Roswell Road, Preliminary Engineering (PE) is Authorized, ROW is scheduled for 2004,

- and Construction is scheduled for 2004. This project will intersect the Johnson Ferry Rd project (PI # 751300). Also, this project will widen Abernathy Rd from the existing two 12' travel lanes with sub-standard shoulders to four 11' travel lanes, two in each direction, with a variable 16' to 32' raised grassed median and with 4' bike lanes, 16' urban shoulders and 8' sidewalks on both sides.
- CM-0000-00(640), PI # 0000640, River Valley Road from Abernathy Road to Riverside Drive in Fulton County, Preliminary Engineering (PE) is Local, ROW is Local and Construction is scheduled for 2005. This is a bicycle pedestrian project.
- STP-9250(2), PI # 751640, Abernathy Rd from SR 9/Roswell Rd to SR 400 in Fulton County. All phases are scheduled in long range. This project is a widening project.
- STP-7532-009400), PI # 753240, Johnson Ferry Road from Abernathy Road to Hildebrand Road, This project is under construction. This project is the construction of new sidewalks.
- PRP-8540-1(121). PI # 761970, Morgan Falls Bridge crossing from Lower Roswell Road to SR 400, This project is in Long Range. This project is new construction of a bridge and roadway linking Lower Roswell Road to SR 400.

Travel Demand and Operational Characteristics

Johnson Ferry Road has an AADT of 32,000. It is anticipated that the AADT will increase to 41,700 in the design year of 2026. This is an increase of approximately 30% for this section of roadway. Johnson Ferry Road is classified as an Urban Principal Arterial. The current Level of Service ranges between LOS D and LOS E. The projected Level of Service for 2026 on Johnson Ferry Road with improvements is LOS C in the six lane section and LOS E in the 4 lane section. The projected Level of Service without this improvement is LOS F.

Community Issues

Fulton County is part of the Atlanta metropolitan area and is a rapidly growing residential area. The 2000 Census listed the population in Fulton County as 816,006. During the 1990 Census year, Fulton County had a population of 648,951. Between 1990 and 2000, Fulton County gained 167,055 residents, a 25.7 percent increase which ranked second in the region in net population increase. Fulton County is the largest county in Georgia in both land area and population and is the region's most densely populated area. The 2010 population projection for Fulton County is 860,797. In the area of the proposed project approximately 8% of the population lives below the poverty level and approximately 27% are minority. These factors would not impact the proposed project.

Safety

In 2000 and 2001, the last two years accident data is available, there were 79 accidents reported along Johnson Ferry Road, which is below the statewide accident rate per million vehicle miles traveled (MVMT). For 2000 the total number of accidents was 42, with 3

injuries and no fatalities. For 2001, the total number of accidents was 37 with 6 injuries and no fatalities. Below are accident data and comparable statewide averages.

	2000	2001
Total Accidents	42	37
Accidents Per 100 MVMT	387	336
Statewide Accidents Per 100 MVMT	*	547
Accident Ratio		

* This information should be available by October of 2003.

The above accident data indicates Johnson Ferry Road, for the proposed project location, experiences accidents at a rate that is below statewide averages but still at unacceptable levels. The majority of the accidents were classified as "angle intersecting" and "rear end". The addition of turn lanes on Johnson Ferry Road and a median will provide a safer operation and reduce the number of accidents on this roadway.

Need and Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve both the operations and safety of the roadway. The need and purpose of the proposed improvements are due to high traffic volumes. This roadway is heavily used by commuters from Cobb County who are trying to access I-285 and Downtown Atlanta. The raised median will limit access and create turn bays to allow safer movement of vehicles. Turn lanes in the corridor will provide safer operating conditions for thru traffic. The bike lanes and sidewalks will provide a link between the commercial district on Roswell Road, the Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area, a planned linear park on Abernathy Road and the neighborhoods on Johnson Ferry Road. The design for this project was influenced by the Citizen's Action Committee formed to help determine the locally preferred alternative. This project will provide local and through traffic with a facility that will serve current and future travel demand and provide the public with a safer driving, walking and biking environment.

Need and Purpose
Project STP-9150(1), Fulton County
PI No. 751310
Abernathy Road From Johnson Ferry Road to Roswell Road

Background

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) adopted the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the 13-county Atlanta Metropolitan area in April 2000. The Plan addresses travel needs through the year 2025. The RTP is the direct result of a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous planning process conducted by ARC, local governments and the Georgia Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/RTP recommends widening Abernathy Road from two to four thru lanes from Johnson Ferry Road to Roswell Road. While this corridor is not shown on a designated state bike route, Fulton County has committed to update their and ARC's Bike Route Plan.

Proposed Improvement

The project proposes construction of one additional thru travel lane in each direction on Abernathy Road from Johnson Ferry Road to Roswell Road and roadway improvements for the entire length of the project. The proposed design would include turning lanes as needed. The total length of the project will be approximately .93 mile.

The existing roadway on Abernathy Road consists of two 12' travel lanes with sub-standard shoulders and intermittent sidewalks. From the beginning of the project at Johnson Ferry Road to the end of the project at Roswell Road, Abernathy Road will be widened to four 11' travel lanes, two in each direction, with a variable 16' to 32' raised median and with 4' bike lanes, 16' urban shoulders and 8' sidewalks on both sides. The Abernathy Road at Roswell Road intersection will be improved by adding dual left turns and a median on Abernathy Road and Roswell Road for all approaches.

Projects in the area in the 6 years Construction Work Program

- STP-9252(6), PI # 751300, Johnson Ferry Road from Chattahoochee River to Abernathy Road, Preliminary Engineering (PE) is Authorized, ROW is scheduled for 2004, and Construction is 2004. This project is a roadway improvement project and will intersect the Abernathy Rd project (PI # 751310).
- CM-0000-00(640), PI # 0000640, River Valley Road from Abernathy Road to Riverside Drive in Fulton County, Preliminary Engineering (PE) is Local, ROW is Local and Construction is scheduled for 2005. This is a bicycle pedestrian project.
- STP-9250(2), PI # 751640, Abernathy Rd from SR 9/Roswell Rd to SR 400 in Fulton County. All phases are scheduled in long range. This project is a widening project.

- STP-7532-00(400), PI # 753240, Johnson Ferry Road from Abernathy Road to Hildebrand Road, This project is under construction, This project is the construction of new sidewalks.
- PRP-8540-1(121), PI # 761970, Morgan Falls Bridge crossing from Lower Roswell Road to SR 400, This project is in Long Range. This project is new construction of a bridge and roadway linking Lower Roswell Road to SR 400.

Travel Demand and Operational Characteristics

Abernathy Road has an AADT of 23,000. It is anticipated that the AADT will increase to 34,600 by the design year of 2026. This is an increase of approximately 50% for this section of roadway. Abernathy Road is classified as an Urban Collector. The current Level of Service on Abernathy Road is LOS E. The projected Level of Service for 2026 on Abernathy Road with improvements is LOS C. The projected Level of Service without this improvement is LOS F.

Community Issues

Fulton County is part of the Atlanta metropolitan area and is a rapidly growing residential area. The 2000 Census listed the population in Fulton County as 816,006. During the 1990 Census year, Fulton County had a population of 648,951. Between 1990 and 2000, Fulton County gained 167,055 residents, a 25.7 percent increase which ranked second in the region in net population increase. Fulton County is the largest county in Georgia in both land area and population and is the region's most densely populated area. The 2010 population projection for Fulton County is 860,797. In the area of the proposed project approximately 8% of the population lives below the poverty level and approximately 27% are minority. These factors would not impact the proposed project.

Safety

In 2000 and 2001, the last two years accident data is available, there were 86 accidents reported along Abernathy Road, exceeding the statewide accident rate per million vehicle miles traveled (MVMT). For 2000 the total number of accidents was 41, with 8 injuries and no fatalities. For 2001, the total number of accidents was 45 with 6 injuries and no fatalities. Below are accident data and comparable statewide averages.

	2000	2001
Total Accidents	41	45
Accidents Per 100 MVMT	638	726
Statewide Accidents Per 100 MVMT	*	550
Accident Ratio		

*This information should be available by October of 2003.

The above accident data indicates Abernathy Road, for the proposed project, experiences accidents at a rate exceeding the statewide average for similar classified facilities. The majority of the accidents were classified as "angle intersecting" and "rear end". The addition of one thru lane in each direction on Abernathy Road with turn lanes and a

median will provide additional capacity for a safer operation and reduce the number of accidents on this roadway.

Need and Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve both the operations and safety of the roadway. The need and purpose of the proposed improvements are due to high number of accidents and high traffic volumes. This roadway is heavily used by commuters from Cobb County and adjacent residents who are trying to access the I-285 and Downtown Atlanta area. The addition of one thru lane in each direction will provide added capacity for safer operating conditions. The raised median will limit access and turn bays will be created at major cross streets to allow safer movement of vehicles. Turn lanes in the corridor will provide safer operating conditions for thru traffic. The bike lanes and sidewalks will provide a link between the commercial district on Roswell Road, the Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area, a planned linear park on Abernathy Road and the neighborhoods along Abernathy Road. This project will provide local and through traffic with a facility that will serve current and future travel demand and provide the public with a safer driving, pedestrian and biking environment.